

From: rbroberg@[158.188.130.124]@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/2/02 1:01pm
Subject: Publish MS File Formats and Network Specifications

I am writing to you on behalf of computer programmers who write and support software for computer operating systems such as Linux, BSD, Solaris, and other Unix OSes.

The difficulty with the MS monopoly is not that they control 95% of the desktop market, but that it is increasingly difficult to develop systems that interoperate with the MS networks. It is this "lock in" that perpetuates the MS market share and decreases the ability for third parties to challenge MS in a particular software domain.

I believe that the most effective remedy is not one that addresses past wrong-doings - from a market perspective that damage is done. The most effective remedy is one that increases competition in the future. Microsoft should be required to publish the file formats of its application software and the protocols of its network services. Microsoft has claimed that (due to market share) its software create the "de facto" standards. It should now make those standards available to all programmers. This single requirement would greatly increase the ability of software companies to create products that would interoperate and compete with current and future Microsoft offerings.

Thank You

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